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SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: So from Congress's standpoint,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...just to set out the framework, they knew they had to start with two. And I would...kind of the...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...so then the operative part of the language is that when we join it becomes valid. Okay. If that's the case, and if we're committing ourselves to emergency action on behalf of other states,...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No. All we're committing ourselves to is doing some preplanning, and to evaluate a request, if a request for assistance comes in. And you see...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Ah...why...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: You have to...you have to submit...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...what...where is the limitation on our commitment to that...to those activities?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay, that would be in Article IV, it says, "Limitations". It says that...there is the preparatory language that says you'll make available such resources as you have available. But it also says that you can withhold resources to the extent necessary to provide reasonable protection for such state. It also says that your...whatever forces you send can continue under your control; you don't lose control. And then the provisions in Article VI that protects you against liability, it says that you are...whoever you send to another state is considered to be an agent of the requesting state,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...so they're going to bear the liability that...